A good vvife is a portion every day.

A Dialogue Discovering a Good wife from a Bad.

and Happy is that Man that hath such a One.

The Tune is , *Packington's Pound.* By *John wade.*

COme young men and listen to what I'le you show,
Then William, and Harry, and Robin, & John,
When as you are minded a wooing to go,
For these lines do concern you every one:
And what I declare,
I'le make it appear,
From Eve it sprung out and has last till this year;
For though she was Mans fall, mark what I say,
A good wife is a portion every day.

For a good wife will be sading, and fearful to waste,
But keep all things together as neer as she can,
When that a spend-thrift will let flye as fast,
And seeke by all means to undo her good man:
Though he carps and hath care,
She'l not pinch nor spare,
But junket abroad and must have her fine cheer:
She thinks what she[illegible]

A wife that is vertuous and civil besides,
Will honour her husband his beams she'l obey,
She'l not strive for carrels who's per betide,
But make all things well when there should be a fray,
With fair words she'l him draw,
To submit to her law,
Though his beard it be frozen in time she'l it thaw;
Although he be given to wander and stray,
A good wife she'l lead him into the right way.

But she that takes no care but onely for pride,
How buckle and thong together to hold,
She will have her humour what ever betide,
Or else she'l be angry as fire the wild fold:
For I see it every day,
As I ride or stand,
First he quarrels with his wife if he shall chide:
[illegible]

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The second Part; To the same Tune.

If a young man has but little withal to begin,
if he lights of a good wife his stock will increase,
what he gets without doors she'l save it within,
and if he be froward she'l strive to keep peace:
when a cross-grain'd wife,
that's given to strife,
will seek to make a man weary on's life:
what e're he says to her she'l not him obey,
when a good wife is a portion every day.

Therefore young batchelors wherever you be,
let not this money your heart so bewitch,
For t'ant that which makes a good huswife you see,
no; means altogether don't make a man rich:
the reason I'le shew you why,
you shan't say I do lye,
He that brings a great deal looks to be maintain'd
Her costly attire an estate will decay, (by),
when a good wife, &c.

I heard of two brothers, the one was the heir,
the other had little at all to begin,
He married a wife that was both rich and fair,
then for his poor brother he car'd not a pin:
for he did like high,
and his wife she lov'd dye,
His means, till she brought him unto poverty:
then to his poor brother he sigh'd and did say,
a good wife, &c.

Thus you may see how some are made poor,
and some that has but little to fortune doth rise,
Then he that has a good wife make much of her then
and do not against her no mischief devise: (for
but some men cannot live,
when as they well be,
But seeks for to ruinate their family:
then all the blame on the poor woman they lay,
when a good wife, &c.

He that has a good wife, happy is that man,
if he do's his endeavour his living to get,
And not spend it abroad in the Inn,
she'l strive always to keep him out of debt:
Good Counsel she'l him give,
if he'l it receive,
And set him all times in a way for to live:
but a wife that is froward his estate will decay,
but a good, &c.

But young men you'l say how should a man know,
how to choose a good wife from a bad,
In few lines I here will you shew,
and teach you that will make your hearts glad,
chuse one that is civil,
and strives to shun evil,
For some are too cunning I think for the devil,
but she that means honest will keep the right way,
when a good, &c.

Be sure don't take a wife that will swear and lye,
nay one that is given to flout nay to jeer, (all dye,
Though she's worth so much money, she'l make it
and I pray mark in a week then thou'lt get in a year
nay do not take one,
that's too fluent in tongue,
She'l always be telling of that she knows not on,
though it be nonsence she will have her way,
when a good, &c.

But if thou art minded for to have a mate,
chuse one that is virtuous and civil beside,
Although thou art poor she'l live at the same rate,
and with patience will wait till thou canst better
For content is a thing, (mend,
That comforts both King,
It makes a poor man as well as a Lord to sing,
then let the rich Hank or Dane deny what I say,
if a good wife b'not a portion every day.

Concluding my ditty of what I have told,
make much of thy wife, tho' thou'rt never so poor,
And if thou hast got children esteem them as gold,
then thou'lt find a store for to cure thy sore:
Do what thou strive
To keep them alive,
As thy charge grows up thy stock it will thrive;
then young men remember these words that I say
a good wife is a portion every day.

Finis.

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